

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6290

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1903

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM TC
SUBJ: UAE HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 147813

1. EMBASSY HAS NO MAJOR DIFFICULTIES WITH CEPS PREPARED BY
DEPARTMENT AND OFFERS FOLLOWING COMMENTS FOR CLAIFICATION
PURPOSES.

2. PARA 2A (1). WHILE WE REALIZE THIS IS DRAWN ALMOST VER-
BATIM FROM ABU DHABI'S 1814 REREADING OUR STATEMENT THAT UAE
CITIZENS CAN BE SUBJECT TO "ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT
IF CENTRAL AUTHORITY FEELS THREATENED" MAY GIVE UNFAIR IMPRESSION
THAT UAEG CONDONES CONTRAVENTION OF ITS STATED LAWS BY ONE OR
MORE IF ITS OWN INSTRUMENTALITIES. TO CLARIFY WHAT WE TRYING
SAY, WOULD PROPOSE ADDING FOLLOWING SENTENCE TO PRECEDING
PARAGRAPH AFTER WORDS "FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY SEARCH".
QUOTE THE UAE DOES NOT YET HAVE A WELL ARTICULATED BODY
OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW. IN ABSENCE OF WELL CODIFIED
LAW, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ENJOYS A BROADER LATITUDE
OF PUBLICLY ACCEPTED ACTION VIS A VIS INDIVIDUALS THAN
EXISTS IN MORE LEGALLY STRUCTURED SOCIETIES. END QUOTE
FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH SHOULD ALSO BE CHANGED TO RBED
"CITIZENS CAN BE SUBJECT BY THEIR ACTIONS TO BROAD RANGE
OF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS INCLUDING SUMMARY ARREST OR
IMPRISONMENT IF CENTRAL AUTHORITY FEELS THREATENED, BUT
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 01903 270903Z

FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL IN VIRTUALLY EVERY CASE IS GUARANTEED."

3. PARA 2(B). CHANGE NATURAL BORN CITIZENS TO "NATIVE
BORN CITIZENS".

4. PARA 5. SECOND SENTENCE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIO-

LATIONS BEING ISOLATED AND RESTRICTED TO "FOREIGN GUEST WORKERS" DOES NOT SEEM FIT IN THIS SECTION WHICH REFERS TO INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MOREOVER, AS FORMULATED, SENTENCE WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN ADMISSION OF UNSPECIFIED NUMBER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST "GUEST WORKERS" WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE IS JUSTIFIED BY THE EVIDENCE. LAST YEAR, A GROUP OF FOREIGN WORK YRS WAS SUMMARILY DEPARTED FROM DUBAI DURING STRIKE (ABU DHABI A-81 OF OCT 30, 1976). HOWEVER, DEGREE TO WHICH THIS TYPE OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FOREIGN WORKERS VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS IS QUESTIONABLE PARTICULARLY SINCE MANY ARE IN UAE ILLEGALLY. (LONDON TIMES OF JUNE 21, 1977 ESTIMATES THAT 100,000 OF THEM AR ILLEGAL ENTRANTS.) IN OUR VIEW FINAL JUDGEMENT AGAINST UAE ON THIS COUNT SHOULD AWAIT A MORE WELL DEFINED CONCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

5. PARA 5B -ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CHARACTERIZATION OF UAE'S RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS BETTER THAN "GENERALLY GOOD". IT WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE TO REMOVE WORD "GENERALLY".

6. AN ADDITIONAL COURSE OF ACTION TO ENCOURAGE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS IN UAE AND UAE SUPPORT FOR US EFFORT IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE TO: QUOTE ENCOURAGE UAE INVOLVEMENT IN UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN HEALTH AND LABOR
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PAGE 03 ABU DH 01903 270903Z

FIELDS TO GIVE THE UAE ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND EXPERTIESE ON BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANE SOCIETY. END QUOTE. UAE HAS SOUGHT A SEAT IN ECOSOC FOR 1978-80 TERM AND THIS SEEMS TO US TO BE EVIDENCE OF ITS SINCERITY AND DESVSE TO PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY, AND WE COULD REINFORCE THAT DESIRE BY SUPPORTING UAE CONDIDACY.
DICKMAN

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